

RESPONSIBLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Manage the department's land holdings and their natural and cultural resources, as a responsible steward, in the public interest.

Philosophy

The department owns and manages much land throughout the region. In particular, the two main water supply watersheds contain natural and cultural resources of great value to society and to the environment. As the manager of the lands and steward of resources, it is the Seattle Water Department's responsibility to protect them and manage them wisely in the public's best interests.

To accomplish these objectives, the department will strive to increase its understanding of these resources and the interactions among them, foster better understanding of their value by the public, solicit public opinion on their best use, and abide by legal requirements for their protection. To best achieve effective stewardship, opportunities for developing cooperative programs with other agencies and interest groups should be identified and taken advantage of.

The department recognizes preservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement as important concepts in land and resource management, and adopts the belief that wise management often requires a willingness to invest in the present for future return.

Policy Implementation Guidelines

- (1) Integrate the management of all resources to ensure protection of all and to produce the best combination of benefits.
- (2) Protect resources by developing specific standards, objectives, and operating guidelines; monitoring the effects of management actions to measure success in meeting these objectives and standards; and adapting resource management to knowledge obtained in follow-up monitoring.
- (3) Recognize the differences in needs and beliefs among interest groups and public agencies, and be responsive to these needs where consistent with overall land management policies and objectives.
- (4) Develop effective mechanisms for participation of the public, affected interest groups, and public agencies in decision-making regarding resource management.